

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-13 ACDA-19 NIC-01 PRS-01 PM-07

NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 DPW-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 RSR-01 /104 W

----- 116189

R 180930Z JUL 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 440

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 04

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

POLAD CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH

SUBJECT: SIHANOUK ON NEGOTIATIONS

REF: PEKING 560 (NOTAL)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN YET ANOTHER INTERVIEW THIS TIME WITH AFP CORRESPONDENT RENE FLIPO ON JULY 18, SIHANOUK DISCUSSED CONVERSATIONS HE HELD WITH VARIOUS AFRICAN LEADERS DURING RECENT TOUR. MOST IMPORT CONVERSATION, HE SAID, WAS WITH MOKTAR OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA IN WHICH SIHANOUK SET FORTH NEW PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. PRINCE SAID ANY U.S. RESPONSE OR COUNTERPROPOSALS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH MOKTAR OULD DADDAH.

2. FLIPO SAID HE FELT SIHANOUK LESS INTRANSIGENT THAN DURING PREVIOUS INTERVIEW WITH AFP'S SERGE ROMENSKY (REFTEL). SIHANOUK STRESSED THAT "SLATE COULD BE WIPED CLEAN" AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH U.S. RESTORED ONCE CONFLICT SETTLED.

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SIHANOUK WARNED THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY U.S. PROPOSAL

WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF RED KHMER, BUT HE IMPLIED THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH PROPOSALS HE OUTLINED TO MOKTAR OULD DADDAH.

3. ON QUESTION OF SUPPLIES, SIHANOUK SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT CHINA WOULD RESUME SHIPMENTS AS SOON AS HANOI GAVE PERMISSION FOR TRANSSHIPMENT. HE INDICATED HE HAD CHOU EN-LAI'S ASSURANCES ON THIS MATTER, BUT FLIPO FELT SIHANOUK MIGHT BE EXAGGERATING STRENGTH OF CHOU'S ASSURANCES. IN GOOD SIHANOUK FASHION, HE REVERSED HIMSELF ON QUESTION OF SUPPLIES FOR DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE, CLAIMING KI HUSBANDING CAPTURED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AND COULD LAUNCH NEW OFFENSIVE AND TAKE PHNOM PENH WITH OR WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP.

4. COMMENT: AFP CORRESPONDENTS APPEAR TO HAVE FREQUENT ACCESS TO SIHANOUK AND, IN FACT, ARE BECOMING SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT PRINCE IS USING THEM AS MOUTH PIECE. ILLUSTRATIVE OF SIHANOUK'S VOLATILE TEMPERAMENT, HE SOMETIMES CALLS AFP CORRESPONDENTS IN EVENING FOR LATE INTERVIEWS, AND IF UNABLE TO REACH THEM, REFUSES TO SEE THEM NEXT MORNING WHEN CALL RETURNED BECAUSE VIEWS OF PREVIOUS EVENING ARE "DEPASSE".
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PEKING00592
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BRUCE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730726/aaaaaspl.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PEKING 560 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIHANOUK ON NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CB, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005